

# CHALLENGE GRANT FUNDING FAQ

**Q: Where can I learn more about the UC Water Challenge Grants, including past awardees and projects?**

A: A full overview of the program is available on the [UC Water Challenge Funding webpage](#).

**Q: Is UC Water Seed Funding open to non-UC investigators?**

A: No, the Seed Funding is only available to UC Investigators. Successful awards will require that each investigator become an official UC Water Investigator.

**Q: I have participated in previous UC Water activities. How do I find out if I am an official UC Water Investigator?**

A: You can search our [list of researchers](#) to confirm whether your name is already listed in the UC Water research community.

**Q: How do I become a UC Water Investigator?**

A: If you share UC Water's vision for water security and sustainability research, and you have PI status at one of the UC campuses, you are eligible to apply to be a UC Water Investigator.

**Q: Do all Co-PIs need to be UC Water Investigators?**

A: Yes, all Co-PIs are required to be UC Water Investigators upon funding approval.

**Q: Do I need to have a Co-PI from another UC Water campus?**

A: Not necessarily, as UC Water Match Funding projects do not require cross-campus collaboration. UC Water Seed Funding, however, must be a collaboration among UC Water PIs at least two of the UC campuses. Cross-campus collaborations are highly encouraged, particularly those that leverage the unique strengths of each campus.

**Q: Do I need to have a Co-PI from a different discipline?**

A: Since many UC Water-supported projects are multidisciplinary, we strongly encourage working with Co-PIs from different disciplines where appropriate.

**Q: I have a current UC Water Seed Project. Can I renew my project?**

A: An existing UC Water Seed Project cannot apply for new Seed Funding. The Seed Funding is intended to provide initial support for new ideas, increasing the likelihood that they can attract funding from federal or state agencies or the industrial/private sector.

**Q: Is there a limit to the number of UC Water Seed Projects I can participate in?**

A: Yes. UC Water Investigators may participate in no more than two proposals per year and serve as lead researcher on no more than one proposal per year.

**Q: Can Seed Funding support summer salaries of PI/Co-PIs?**

A: No. The summer salaries of Investigators are not eligible for the Seed Funding budget.

**Q: Can Seed Funding be used for faculty salary or non-resident tuition?**

A: No. Faculty salary and non-resident tuition for Investigators are not eligible categories for expenditures.

**Q: Do matching funds from extramural sources increase the likelihood of selection?**

A: Matching funds are required for UC Water Match Funding, but not Seed Funding. Matching funds for Seed Funds will have positive selection impact only when the proposal has high technical merit by itself and the matching funds support research within the scope of the UC Water Seed Project. Demonstration must be made for existing funds for the Match Funding program.

**Q: How do I file a No-Cost Extension for UC Water Seed Funded Projects?**

A: No-Cost Extensions (NCE) will not be granted. All funds must be used the fiscal year for which they were issued.

**Q: Who do I contact for assistance with the UC Water Seed Funding program?**

A: Please email our program team at [info@ucwater.org](mailto:info@ucwater.org). The appropriate person will respond to you promptly.